

**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Artillery

**Item number:** 13/126/16

**Title:** 15th Australian Light Trench Mortar  
Battery

October 1917



AWM4-13/126/16



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Sheet ~~1~~ 1

15<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1. 10. 17.		Had an inspection parade, and took lists of all shortages. The rest of the day was free.	
do.	2. 10. 17		Carried on with smartening up drill during morning, and played football during afternoon. Lieut. E. R. Keys returned from 2 <sup>nd</sup> army T.M. School.	
	3. 10. 17.		Spent the morning in reorganization of the battery. At the request of the Divisional Commander no other parades were held. Men are to be rested as much as possible during the next few days.	E.H.B.
	4. 10. 17.		Morning inspection was the only parade held during the day. A visit was paid to the miniature landscape map of our Corps sector.	E.H.B.



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15th B. L. T. M. B.

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Sheet II.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	5.10.17.		BATTERY was taken for a short route march during the afternoon. No other parade was held.	E.K.K.
"	6.10.17.		Morning parade was held at Ottawa Camp. All men received a change of clothing.	E.K.K.
"	7.10.17.		Preparations were made for a forward move. Personnel for the nucleus camp detailed.	E.K.K.
	8.10.17.		Nucleus under Lieut. Gamble marched out for Divisional Reinforcement Camp at 9.30 a.m. At 12.30 p.m. battery marched out of Scottish Camp and embarked near Oudeboom. Debussed near Ypres and marched to quarters in Mire Tunnel, very comfortable & roomy & lit by electricity.	E.K.K.



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Sheet III.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	9/10/17		Battery moved forward to Westhoek Ridge, in support to the 9th Brigade who occupy the front system. The move was accomplished without incident.	E.H.B.
"	10. 10. 17		Shelling fairly heavy throughout the day. A party of officers and N.C.O.'s reconnoitred the tracks through the forward area & got into touch with the 8th A. L. T. M. B.	E.H.B.
"	11. 10. 17		Officers & N.C.O.'s of the battery reconnoitred tracks in the 2nd Division's Area as far forward as Yonckere. Shelling was again fairly heavy throughout the day.	E.H.B.
"	12. 10. 17		Battery was employed on fatigue at the Divisional Dump during the day. Good and damaged ammunition was sorted out & placed in separate dumps. Dump is very badly situated. Ground being very wet and traffic badly congested at present with	E.H.B.
"	13. 10. 17		Battery relieved the 8th Bty in the front system. Four mortars are in the front line two at G. 5. A. 8. 8. & two at G. 29. D. 2. 8. Remainder in support at Gaster Point. One P. R., Prevost, wounded during day.	E.H.B.

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Sheet IV

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	14.10.17.		Raining nearly all day. Ground is in a very bad state & the men rather wretched, shelters being very poor. Conditions were very much improved during the day by laying planks from shelters to gun positions & draining & baling out the gun pits.	E.K.B.
"	15.10.17.		Shelling very heavy during the day. A fair amount of ammunition was got forward. Enemy planes very active flying low over our lines totally unchecked. The detachments at the right position were changed during the evening.	E.K.B.
"	16.10.17.		Weather conditions greatly improved. Advantage was taken of this to get some two hundred rounds of ammunition up to the forward positions. The reserve detachments at Garter Point carried out some experiments in anti-aircraft work with good results.	E.K.B.
"	17.10.17.		During the day several enemy planes were driven back by the fire of our anti-aircraft detachments. During the night battery was relieved by the 14 <sup>th</sup> Ptz. & went back to Swan Area.	E.K.B.



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Sheet I

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	18. 10. 17.		Battery marched back to Oudeordon & took up quarters in Cornwall. Camp. Men are very comfortable.	E.H.B.
	19. 10. 17.		The day was spent in inspection of kit & cleaning of equipment. Men bathed & received a change of clothing at the camp baths.	E.H.B.
	20. 10. 17.		Nothing of interest to note. Preparing to move.	E.H.B.
	21. 10. 17.		Battery moved up to Swan Area. This is now the support area to the forward system.	E.H.B.
	22. 10. 17.		Quiet day. Hostile air-craft bombed vicinity of our camp during the night. No damage was done in our immediate vicinity.	E.H.B.
	23. 10. 17.		The list of honours & rewards for our Brigade for the Polygon Wood operation has been published. Lieut. Gamble of this battery received the M.C. & Ptes. Bush, Harris, Messers, & Wright the Military Medal.	E.H.B.
	24. 10. 17.		Nothing of note occurred during the day.	E.H.B.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field.	25.10.17.		Battery relieved the 8 <sup>th</sup> Bty in the front system. A heavy barrage had to be passed through while going up but no casualties were sustained. Three positions, each of two mortars, are held in the front system. These are merely for defence purposes as the line held by the enemy is some eight or nine hundred yards in front of our line.	E.K.B.
	26.10.17.		Raining heavily all day. Two casualties during the day, Patterson killed, & Hood wounded.	E.K.B.
	27.10.17.		Weather greatly improved. our own & enemy planes very active. On five separate occasions enemy planes were driven back by the fire of our mortars. A very satisfactory degree of accuracy can be obtained in firing at low-flying planes. Battery was relieved by the 7 <sup>th</sup> Bty during the evening & came out to Swan Area.	E.K.B.
	29.10.17.		Battery marched back to Scottish Camp & took up quarters in huts. Very comfortable. Lieut Morris marched out on English leave.	E.K.B.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>In the Field.</i>	<i>29.10.17.</i>		<i>Kit inspection was held &amp; list of shortages taken. Indents for shortages submitted to D.A.D. O.S.</i>	<i>E.K.K.</i>
	<i>30.10.17.</i>		<i>Syllabus of training has been drawn up &amp; a start was made this morning. A batch of men from the battalions has been attached for instruction.</i>	<i>E.K.K.</i>
	<i>31.10.17.</i>		<i>Lieut Gamble reported back from the 1<sup>st</sup> D.R.S. Parade consisted of training as laid down in syllabus.</i>	<i>E.K.K.</i>